



## THE NATIONAL CENTER ON Parent, Family and Community Engagement

### About the NCPFCE

The Office of Head Start National Center on Parent, Family and Community Engagement (NCPFCE) will identify, develop and disseminate evidence-based practices that are positively associated with the development of children from birth-to-eight and the strengthening of families and communities. The NCPFCE will create a framework and related tools for implementing an integrated, systemic and sustained approach to parent, family and community engagement in Head Start and Early Head Start (HS/EHS) that is culturally and linguistically relevant and strengthens and solidifies parents' role in the early years, empowering them for ongoing advocacy for quality education as their children advance through public education.

The NCPFCE is committed to working in partnership with the Head Start community, the Regional and State T/TA network, the other National Centers and the Office of Head Start to uplift and refresh current practices and co-create new approaches that actively and intentionally engage parents, families, communities and programs in the development and learning of young children.



### Our Goals

The NCPFCE will implement a professional development and communications approach that will lead to the adoption of research-based and research-informed practices for promoting integrated, systemic, and sustained parent, family and community engagement in HS/EHS programs. Building upon the knowledge and experience of the field, the NCPFCE will model for the early childhood and school-age community strategies for embedding parent, family and community engagement from birth to career/constructive citizenship.

### Parent, Family, and Community Engagement

Our review of research and our collective experience with Head Start and other education and human service initiatives confirm that effective parent, family and community engagement is:

- **Responsive** to the cultures, goals and circumstances of individual parents and provides a **comprehensive** range of pathways for family support, involvement and leadership;
- Based on **shared responsibility** where programs commit to joining families in respectful and empowering ways and families commit to actively supporting their children's learning;
- **Outcomes-based and data driven** thereby enabling parents, teachers, program directors, family service providers and community partners to find new solutions to new challenges; and
- **A systemic program-wide initiative** that is embedded in the work of all staff members, management systems, and leadership priorities.



## Our Guiding Principles

The following principles will guide the way the NCPFCE shapes its work and communicates with the field.

- Listen and learn from parents, families, programs, T/TA providers and communities to ensure materials and tools bring about innovation in practice at the local level.
- Celebrate and uplift that which HS/EHS has been doing for decades to involve parents and extend that work with the integration of research-based and research-informed practices that promote systemic, integrated and sustained approaches to embedding parent, family and community engagement in all that programs do and represent.
- Use a holistic approach that communicates respect, acknowledges rich diversity of all and resilience for great accomplishment, even in the face of adversity.
- Foster a climate that supports a love for learning and accomplishment through partnerships that actively acknowledge and respect families as capable and parents as competent partners in their children's development.

## Key Activities of the NCPFCE

- Assess the needs and current resources available through individual and group conversations with parents and programs, site visits, and a literature review.
- Develop guides and related tools to enhance capacity for systemic parent, family and community engagement.
  - An **Organization Readiness and Progress Guide** will help programs establish a baseline of their practices and identify different pathways programs can take to integrate and strengthen parent, family and community engagement.
  - **Parent, Family and Community Engagement materials** will capture a family's level of engagement on several dimensions and support the co-construction between family and program staff of actions that can be undertaken to support family development and children's learning. These materials will provide definitions, roles, research-based practices, and capacity building models.
  - A **Family Well-Being** series will address the multiple challenges faced by families as a result of income insecurity and outline promising strategies for how community resources can best support child and family well-being.
- Engage in planning and resource development with the other National Centers.
- Identify and support the development of communities of practice model of systemic and integrated parent, family and community engagement.
- Conduct on-going training at state, regional and national events.
- Provide support and expertise to Regional and State T/TA staff and consultants.
- Convene an advisory group to provide guidance to the National Center.



*The Office of Head Start National Center on Parent, Family and Community Engagement is a partnership between the Brazelton Touchpoints Center at Children's Hospital Boston and the Harvard Family Research Project, with the Council of Chief State School Officers, National PTA, and Save the Children as active members of the leadership team.*

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